

**Arkansas Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council  
Meeting  
September 15, 2012  
Arkansas State Hospital, Little Rock, Arkansas  
Large Conference Room**

**1. Introductions:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Ms. Joyce Soularie, ABHPAC Chair. All present introduced themselves.

**2. Minutes of July Meeting:**

The minutes were reviewed and accepted as written.

**3. Announcements:**

Several members have been recognized recently. In particular the award given to Bill Shumaker at the Mental Health Institute for his work capturing stories of mental illness and a new award was instituted and given to Vanessa Davis for her many contributions as a civil servant throughout the years.

Loretta Cochran announced her appreciation for the Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) staff pulling off the arrangements for the ABPAC Annual Retreat and Institute at the last minute with such great results. The applause indicated everyone's agreement.

Angie Lassiter explained the actions taken by the CASSP; sending a letter of support for the option to expand Medicaid to Governor Beebe. A motion was made that a letter of support also be sent from ABHPAC which carried.

Paula Stone announced a Technical Assistance Planning Grant was awarded to Arkansas. This grant funds support for planning efforts for Children's System of Care to go statewide. The approach to be taken is organizing sections with work groups for finance, training and data collection planning.

**4. Arkansas Healthcare Improvement:**

The current draft of the Health Care Payment Improvement Initiative was made available to the council for discussion. Members of the core team drafting the initiative, Ms. Janie Huddleston, Deputy Director of DHS and Ms. Jennifer Gallaher, DBHS Director, were present to get input from the council to assist them producing a plan that is inclusive of all invested parties. Other groups are also being asked to participate in the process as well. The discussions were beneficial to all present, but lengthy. The group suggested to end the discussion and the council will resume consideration of the plan recording thoughts and questions for the core team. The council will then present the document to Ms. Gallaher and Ms. Huddleston at the next regular ABHPAC meeting

**5. Retreat Recap:**

The retreat, despite the obstacles, was well attended with approximately 25 members. The presentation was to familiarize the ABHPAC with the changes in how the state is to apply for block grant funding of behavioral health care. Ted Johnson, National Association of Mental Health Planning Councils (NAMHPAC) Board member, explained how the grant was requested in

the past opposed to how it is to be done in the future. There will be opportunity to use the funds more strategically to cover gaps in services. There is a challenge to be innovative in the distribution of the money rather than using a standardized calculation year after year. It also requires that an accounting for the money awarded to programs is made; that the department be able to see and know what each dollar is used for.

**6. SAMHSA Site Visit:**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) Site Visit team were at the DBHS on September 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The council and family members were invited to speak with the surveyors on Wednesday afternoon. The group attending was the largest as well as the most vocal that long time council members remembered attending in the past. The discussion included their perception of the council's strengths and weaknesses and recommendations for future development. The report of the final results of the survey will be shared with the council when it is received later in the year.

One particular suggestion was the council should begin the process of creating a succession plan for the Chairperson. In November a small sub group can begin this process. To avoid any conflict of interest it is preferred to recruit and elect persons not employed by DBHS. The candidate(s) should be located in order to have elections at the March meeting.

Another issue we are aware of is the orientation for new council members is need of revision. Becky Webber and Joyce Soularie will be working on this project in the near future.

**7. Block Grant**

FY 2012-2013: The 2013 application was submitted without a review of the council. The list of priorities chosen for 2013 was included.

FY 2014 – 2015: Members that would like to serve on the Block Grant Sub-committee this year were asked to sign-up. They were given a notebook containing the most current information and a schedule of meeting dates.

The meeting was dismissed with no further business. The next regular meeting of the council will be Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the school for the deaf Tornado Shelter building at 2400 W. Markham St. in Little Rock.